Opening of Petrol/Diesel sale counter under Rest Areas Scheme

2034. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original scheme for rest areas along National Highways included the operation of a petrol/diesel sales outlets;

(b) if so, the number of rest areas which were sanctioned petrol sales outlets;

(c) the reasons for abandoning the scheme; and

(d) the details of such rest areas operating in the country presently?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Letters of Intent were issued to 27 entrepreneurs.

(c) Ministry of Petroleum withdrew from the scheme.

(d) :

S. No.	Location	State
1.	Km. 457 on NH. 17 Panvel-Panjim Section (457 Km. from Panvel)	Maharashtra
2.	Km. 226 on NH.6 on Nagpur-Sambalpur road (near Durg).	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Km. 32 from Allahabad on NH. 2 (Allahabad-Varanasi Section)	Uttar Pradesh

Carpet export from the country

2035. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's carpet export has registered an all time negative growth during 1995-96 as compared to the last two year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to improve the export of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Exports of carpets in value terms have shown an increase of 7.56% during 1995-96 compared to 1994-95, whereas the increase was 31.08% during 1994-95 as compared to the year 1993-94.

This growth rate is attributed to the world wide economic recession which resulted in exports of low value carpets i.e. Gabba and Indo-Nepalese quality for which unit value realization is very low.

(c) The specific measures taken up to improve the export of carpet include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs and exhibitions; organisation of buyer-seller's meets; overseas publicity and publication of catalogues; conducting of seminars and workshop; import of raw wool at nominal import duty and organisation of international Carpet Expo annually in India.

Visit by N.H.A.I. officials

2036. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRASNPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of NHAI have visited different States in India;

(b) the steps proposed to re-orient the NHAI to road and Highway development in India; and

(c) the steps proposed to ban frequent foreign visits by officials of NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Officials of National Highways Authority of India have visited the States where the National Highways have been entrusted to them.

(b) The National Highways Authority of India is being developed on professional lines to match the needs of Highway development in India.

(c) Officials of National Highways Authority of India visit foreign countries only when it is absolutely essential.